



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - August 14, 2003**

- ***In the West***, monsoon showers are easing irrigation demands and providing local relief to rangelands, especially in **Arizona**. However, hot, dry weather continues to stress dryland agricultural interests and strain drought-reduced irrigation reserves in many areas, including the **interior Northwest** and the **Intermountain West**.
- ***On the Plains***, although temperatures remain at near- to below-normal levels across **central and southern portions of the region**, dry weather and limited soil moisture reserves continue to stress pastures and immature, dryland summer crops. Meanwhile, very hot, dry weather persists on the **northern High Plains**, where the spring wheat harvest is advancing but concerns are mounting about a lack of moisture in preparation for winter wheat planting.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, today's high temperatures are forecast to remain mostly at or below 90 degrees F, well below the heat-stress threshold for reproductive to filling summer crops. However, dryness continues to expand across the **western Corn Belt**, most significantly in an area centered on **northwestern Missouri** but more recently in the **upper Mississippi Valley**.
- ***In the South***, a tropical disturbance is generating heavy rain across **southern Florida**, where flooding remains a threat. Elsewhere, locally heavy showers linger in the **western Gulf Coast region**, while favorably drier weather is overspreading the **central Gulf Coast States**.

**Outlook:** Drier, warmer air will overspread in the **Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States**, while scattered showers will prevail in the **southern Appalachians, Southeast, Rio Grande Valley, and Southwest**. Meanwhile, a strong tropical disturbance will bring very heavy rainfall to **southern Florida**. The disturbance may reach tropical-storm intensity while moving westward across the **Gulf of Mexico**. Farther north, above-normal temperatures will expand from the **northern Rockies** eastward into the **Great Lakes States**. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 19-23 calls for above-normal precipitation and below-normal temperatures in the **lower Mississippi Valley** and the **southeastern Plains**, while drier-than-normal conditions are likely in the **Northeast** and across the **western half of the U.S.** Above-normal temperatures are forecast across the **northern Plains, upper Midwest, and the West**.

**Contact:** Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)